

Picture Taking Guidelines for Foster Parents Posting Adoptable Pets

Pictures are everything when posting your foster pets on websites, flyers, and Petfinder. *Above all, choose a time for this project when you are not in a hurry and have lots of patience.* This should be a fun project for you and your foster animals!

Pictures Should be Clear and Unobstructed

With the possible exception of a “batting” foot in an action shot we do not want to use blurred photos! Using a flash can help prevent blur, but often results in closed or red eyes. Turning on lots of lights in a room or opening blinds can reduce blur by reducing the time the camera’s shutter must remain open. If necessary, take a movie with your digital camera and remove a still shot for very active animals. In many cases these “stills” will be large enough for the web. Videos can now be posted on Petfinder and the website. Keep those short and sweet!

Do not send pictures where your pet is obstructed by other objects. Please no more than one group shot, if you have a litter. Good facial shots can have the body cropped off for a head shot. Make sure the entire front view of the face is always visible in at least one photo. We do prefer to have all identifying markings visible, such as spots or socks on the feet. We especially want to show markings as these photos may be used later in identification of your foster pet.

Work with Your Foster Pet

You know your foster pet best! Take pictures when your pet feels safe and secure. Try and keep your pet relaxed and without fear. A pet’s expression will be all too clear in adoption photos. If a particular pet doesn’t like to be held. Don’t hold it down. Use a clicker or toy to get the pet’s attention. Be creative in showing off the best attributes in your foster pet.

Be Ready for the Great Shots!

Keep your camera charged and available. Chance favors the prepared photographer! You can try the set-up pose until both you and your foster pet are tired and still not get the spectacular photo that is waiting to happen if only you are ready to snap that spontaneous shot!

Variety is Important and Remember to Include Identifying Features

Two photos will be chosen for your foster pet’s portfolio. Take different shots, i.e. playing, sleeping, eating, just looking cute. One shot may be a profile, or even an interesting picture of the animals back doing something cute as long as we have one good facial photo. We do prefer to have all identifying markings visible, such as spots, or socks on the feet.

Add Interest

Use props. For example, a large picture book or drape. Use your imagination for backdrops. The sky is the limit! Take your foster pet’s picture with a favorite toy or treat. A good technique to show off the pet’s affectionate nature is to include your hand in the photo with your pet brushing against you. A good shot of your foster cat rubbing against your hand with closed-eyes is priceless in adoption photos!